

HUME SCHOOL
1805 South Arlington Ridge Road
Arlington
Virginia

HABS VA-1435
VA-1435

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HUME SCHOOL

HABS No. VA-1435

Location: 1805 South Arlington Ridge Road, in Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia.

The coordinates for the Hume School are 38.858719N, 77.067619W; these were obtained using Google Earth in August 2010 and, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Description: The Hume School is a two-story, masonry building covered by a hip roof. The front façade is dominated by a projecting entrance tower that rises in four stages to a pyramidal roof and cupola with a weathervane. The first stage consists of an arch; behind the arch is the main entrance into the building. The final stage of the tower is the belvedere. The school bell is housed in the crowning cupola. Gabled dormers punctuate the roofline. The windows are sash glazed with six-over-six lights. Those on the secondary elevations have flat arches made of gauged brick. Inside, the windows are predominantly framed with molded wood trim and corner blocks. The interior spaces have been partitioned into museum exhibit areas.

History: The Hume School is an imaginative Queen Anne-style building and is representative of the community pride shown in the erection of public schools during the last decades of the nineteenth century. Prompted by reforms in education and heightened by municipal support for more sophisticated and often monumental structures, the small schoolhouses of the early nineteenth century were replaced by commodious and frequently stylish structures. The Hume School was designed by the Washington architect B. Stanley Simmons and was built in 1891. It stands as a reminder of Arlington's pride and achievement in schoolhouse reform and construction.

The school was closed in 1956 and deeded to the Arlington Historical Society in 1960 for use as a museum. The Hume School Historical Museum was opened to the public in 1963.¹

Sources: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, "Hume School," Nomination January 1979, National Register for Historic Places, National Park Service.

Historian: Virginia B. Price, 2010.

¹ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, "Hume School," Nomination January 1979, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, sec. 8, 1.

Figure 1. View looking from the parking lot on the south side of the building to the west (front) façade and south side elevation. (Photograph by author, 2010).



Figure 2. Perspective view looking from the southwest. (Photograph by author, 2010)

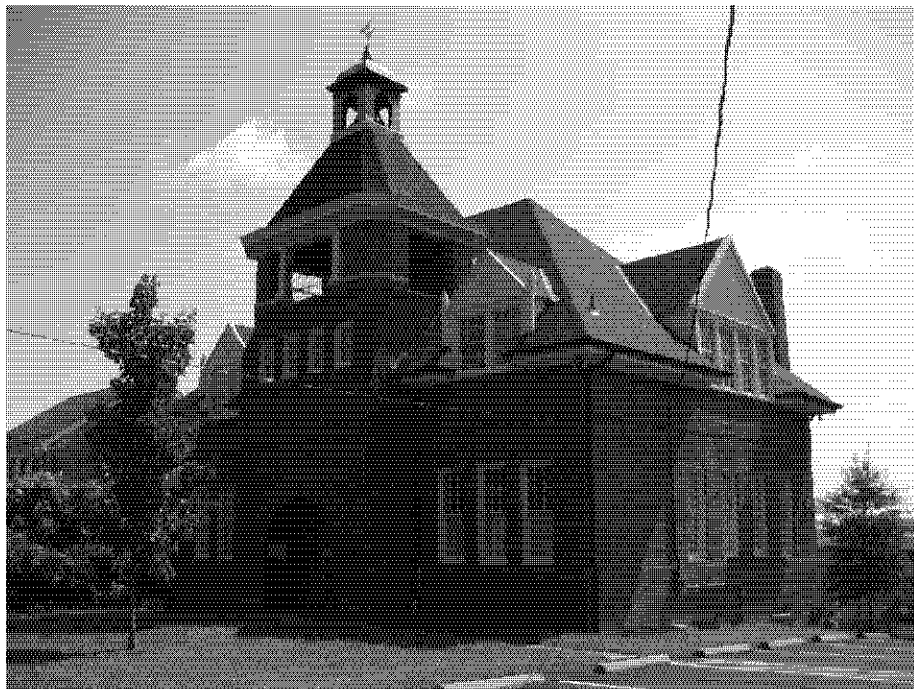


Figure 3. Close view of the west (front) façade to show the tower archway. (Photograph by author, 2010)

